



# *Eastern Regional News*

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*Eastern Bird Banding Association*

*Founded 1923*

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## **ATLANTIC FLYWAY REVIEW: SPRING 2011**

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We lost a friend and long-time contributor to the spring and fall AFR reports. Janet Shaffer of Bedford, PA, died on 28 Jul 2012. She had run her Pennsylvania Bedford Valley station for many years, even through some tough periods while undergoing chemo treatment. A Memorial Service was held for her on 8 Sep 2012 in Bedford.

We welcome a new station to the spring AFR - Patuxent Powerline Right-of-Way in Laurel, MD, run by Jo Anna Lutmerding. This station has been a long-time contributor to Chan Robbins' Fall Region IV AFR report. It is nice to know that some of the BBL staff get out of the office at least once a week during spring and fall migration!

Overall, banding numbers in spring 2011 were up from 2010 at eight of the 13 reporting stations. Wet net lanes and days lost to rain were cited as a factor in the numbers banded or fewer days operated at Crown Point, Lewiston, Rock Point, Appledore, Kestrel Haven, Presque Isle, Wing Island and Powdermill, but ironically numbers were up at four of those stations.

The narratives always make interesting reading. A Grasshopper Sparrow was Crown Point's 101<sup>st</sup> species banded. Also at Crown Point, a red fox made life interesting and even marked net bags left out one night. Banders at Cape Florida recaptured a Northern Waterthrush (in its sixth year) that had been banded at Braddock Bay in 2006.

As always, we would welcome the participation of additional reporting stations for the spring AFR report. Let me know if you are interested, and I will send you a reporting form.

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**Crown Point State Historic Site**      **440-0732**  
Essex County, NY  
**Gordon E. Howard, Bander**  
ghoward@clermson.edu  
**John M.C. Peterson, Founder**

The 2011 spring Crown Point banding station began operations on 6 May, continuing daily during daylight hours into the morning of 22 May. This was the 36<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of spring migrant monitoring on the grounds of the 360-ac Crown Point State Historic Site. Banders assisting us this year were: Gary Lee, Nina Schoch and Robert Wei.

**Table 1. Spring 2011 AFR Banding Summary**

	Crown Point, NY	Lewiston, NY	Braddock Bay, NY	Ruthven, ON	Rock Point, ON	Appledore, ME
Inclusive Dates	5/6 - 5/22	5/1 - 5/21	4/17 - 6/10	4/1 - 5/31	4/1 - 6/4	5/12 - 6/9
Total Days	16	4	51	61	43	29
Nets Used	16 - 18	15	1 - 34	17	16 - 17	6 - 10
Total Net Hours	2,611	218	7,897	5,173	3,073	3,205
% Caught in Traps	1%	0%	0%	16.7%	0%	0%
Best Day # (date)	60 on 5/10	9 on 5/7	342 on 5/23	144 on 5/12	86 on 5/4	368 on 5/14
Best Diversity (date)	23 sp on 5/21	7 sp on 5/7	35 sp on 5/13	31 sp on 5/12,13	27 sp on 5/12	35 sp on 5/14
Total Banded 2010	533	147	4,113	1,214	1,099	1,905
Total Banded 2011	518	21	4,660	2,034	1,299	2,152
Total Species 2010	55	27	94	87	87	61
Total Species 2011	58	12	93	90	74	68
Birds/100nh 2010	13	16	48.9	20.5	28	58
Birds/100nh 2011	20	10.3	59	32.4	39	67.1

**Table 1. Spring 2011 AFR Banding Summary**

	Long Point, ON	Kestrel Haven, NY	Presque Isle, PA	Wing Island, MA	Powdermill, PA	Patuxent Powerline, MD	Cape Florida, FL
Inclusive Dates	4/1 - 6/10	4/14 - 5/20	4/21 - 5/30	4/21 - 6/16	3/3 - 5/28	4/15 - 5/25	4/9 - 5/12
Total Days	71	11	27	20	55	22	28
Nets Used	0 - 50	11	8 - 11	17 - 32	6 - 63	26	17 - 19
Total Net Hours	7,410	222	1,417	2,092	10,203	1,820	3,185
% Caught in Traps	20.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Best Day # (date)	728 on 5/2	82 on 5/11	107 on 5/13	49 on 5/14	120 on 5/12,13	65 on 5/10	142 on 5/12
Best Diversity (date)	57 sp on 5/2	17 sp on 5/11,12	33 sp on 5/10	14 sp on 5/14	36 sp on 5/4	21 sp on 5/11	14 sp on 4/30
Total Banded 2010	11,607	323	915	380	2,390	659	1,207
Total Banded 2011	15,830	392	1,394	265	2,340	756	691
Total Species 2010	130	46	76	43	93	60	30
Total Species 2011	134	39	80	37	98	53	25
Birds/100nh 2010	170	122	46.5	22	21	41.2	45
Birds/100nh 2011	214	177	75.1	24	23	41.6	23

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	Black-capped Chickadee	106	74%	22%	4%
2.	Blue Jay	84	19	81	0
3.	American Goldfinch	56	30	22	48
4.	Gray Catbird	37	57	40	3
5.	Common Yellowthroat	25	56	44	0
6.	Baltimore Oriole	24	33	67	0
7.	Yellow Warbler	18	50	50	0
8.	White-throated Sparrow	12	8	0	92
9.	E. White-crowned Sparrow	11	0	0	100
10.	Magnolia Warbler	11	9	91	0

The station banded its 101<sup>th</sup> species this year, a Grasshopper Sparrow. Individuals banded were 518, down from 533 in 2010, of 58 species, up from 55 from the previous year. Station returns were 16 this year and 34 in 2010. A total of 16,490 birds have been banded since the station's inception in 1976.

Typically, the station operates 18 nets. However, after the first week, and for the first time, the station experienced red fox predation of birds in the nets and an attempt to dig under a Potter trap to get to a Blue Jay. We reduced nets for two days then went back to 16 nets when the vixen moved the den further away. There was no additional predation but the fox marked net bags at night. Net hours were reduced by about 40 % from 4,320 in 2010 to 2,611 this year. Two Potter traps accounted for 1% of the captures, mostly Eastern White-crowned Sparrows. One individual was trapped 14 times.

Notwithstanding the relatively late spring when compared to recent years, netting was slow the first week. Heavy winter snows plus heavy rains in late April and early May caused truly record flooding of Lake Champlain, enlarging the lake by 15% (74 mi<sup>2</sup>). While the first week was sunny, there was a strong north wind. The second week had rain and more rain until the final weekend. The highest count day was 10 May with 60 birds banded. Fifty-

two of the 60 individuals were either a Blue Jay (39) or a Black-capped Chickadee (13), an indication of this year's banding outcome. One Northern Flicker Intergrade was banded, the second such for the station.

Two of the Black-capped Chickadees exhibited leucism. One's tail was entirely white. The second had leucistic primaries 1 and 2 plus secondaries 1 and 2, but only on the right wing.

The 16 station returns were from five species. American Goldfinch and Baltimore Oriole tallied six each. But the only notable return was a Black-capped Chickadee banded in 2006. It has been recaptured every year but one since being banded. It was seen nesting near the banding station.

The tick invasion of last year seemed to have abated this year; two birds, three ticks.

Three school groups visited the banding station this year. Additionally, there were 120 visitors, but several visited on multiple days.

The Crown Point Banding Association is an independent, participant-funded, peer managed, volunteer organization. Station personnel numbered 12 this year. Special thanks are due to Gary Lee who stayed at the station 24/7 for the most of the duration of the banding operation, Tom Barber for camping many nights, raising and lowering the nets, and covering in Gary's absence; and to founder J.M.C. (Mike) Peterson for his foresight in establishing the banding station, his dedication to keeping the station open year to year, and for the use of his equipment and data archives.

The assistance with the transport and set-up / take-down of the station, net checking, etc. given by the following people is greatly appreciated: Wendy Burkowski; The Chapmen family - especially Malinda, Dan Lee; Dave Rutkowski and Glenn Howard. We thank Karin Emmons, Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, Clemson University, for her assistance with our education materials and out-reach program.

We are indebted to the fine staff at the Crown Point State Historic Site and the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for allowing us to continue to collect data on the site. Thomas Hughes, the site manager, has been extremely supportive of our program. Additionally, Jake Putnam has been instrumental in seeing that site preparation and maintenance needs are met. The interpretive staff has been wonderful in directing our visitors to the station and in informing other historic site visitors about our program. This year the Crown Point State Historic Site celebrates its 101<sup>st</sup> year of operation. We are pleased to have been associated with the Site for over one-third of its history. We celebrated by banding our 101<sup>st</sup> species, the Grasshopper Sparrow.

**Lewiston Banding Station**                      **431-0790**  
 Niagara Co., NY  
**Jerald J. Farrell, Bander**  
 Jsfarrell3940@verizon.net

The 2011 spring banding season got underway on 1 May. There was very little cover on the trees with even fewer numbers of birds being observed. Only two birds were caught and banded that day after 2.5 hours using 15 nets. Things did not improve very much over the month, with only a total of 21 birds being caught and banded. Of these 21 birds, only four were warblers. This is hardly what you would call a migration!

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|---------------------------|---|------|
| 1. Gray Catbird           | 6 | 100% |
| 2. Northern Cardinal      | 3 | 100% |
| 3. Black-capped Chickadee | 2 | 100% |
| 4. Wood Thrush            | 2 | 100% |

The nets were opened on four days only because the rainy weather was a major problem. But even on the four days, there were hardly any birds in the wooded block. Water was running down the net lanes throughout the whole banding season. On 21 May, after three hours of banding and catching only eight birds, it was decided to take the nets down and end the banding operation for this spring.

Many questions have come up as to the lower number of birds at the Lewiston Station. In particular, what happened to the spring migration of warblers at this location? This has been by far the worst spring banding season in 36 years.

**Braddock Bay Bird Observatory**    **431-0774**  
**Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station**  
 Monroe County, NY  
**Elizabeth W. Brooks, Bander**

brookser@earthlink.net  
 www.braddockbaybirdobservatory.wordpress.com  
 Chief banding assistants: Ann Adams, David Bonter, Kelly Dockery, Jon Dombrowski, Erin Karnatz, Ryan Kayhart, Marian Klik, Tom Klotzbach, Cindy Marino, and Robert McKinney.

The 26th consecutive year of spring migration monitoring at the Kaiser-Manitou Beach Banding Station was carried out for 51 days beginning 17 Apr and ending on 10 Jun 2011. There were 4,660 birds banded of 93 species. Ninety-two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are included in the list of banded birds and an additional 17 male and 11 female Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were captured and released unbanded.

	Species	#	%SY	%ASY	%AHY
1.	Black-capped Chickadee	684	74	5	20
2.	Magnolia Warbler	488	73	20	7
3.	American Redstart	344	62	38	10
4.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	253	59	6	35
5.	Yellow Warbler	221	64	20	16
6.	Traill's Flycatcher	200	11	4	85
7.	Common Yellowthroat	193	43	11	45
8.	Gray Catbird	190	40	23	36
9.	Wilson's Warbler	177	71	8	21
10.	White-throated Sparrow	94	52	10	37